GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2419
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
QUALITY OF MOBILE SERVICES
Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile services in rural areas of the country including in Maharashtra is highly unsatisfactory and not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the mobile services; and

(d) the number of towers installed in the country including in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(c) Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is, in general, working satisfactorily in the rural areas of the country including in Maharashtra and is meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). BSNL is optimizing its network continuously for its performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.In addition, Government has taken and is contemplating following steps to further improve the mobile services in rural areas:-

(i) To increase the wireless communication in rural areas, scheme for setting up of 7871 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts in 27 States for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) (Phase-I) has been launched. Mobile services from these towers are likely to commence in a phased manner.

(ii) Second phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 11,000 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas is likely to be launched shortly.

(iii) Sharing of infrastructure to reduce the capital as well as operation cost.

(d) A statement indicating State-wise number of towers installed in the country including in the State of Maharashtra by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years and the current financial year upto 30.11.2008 is given in Annexure.